REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. These claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,610 (Gunderwar, et al.).

5   Applicants have provided arguments below for distinguishing the present invention from the cited Gunderwar reference.

Applicants' use of reference characters below is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be limiting in nature unless explicitly indicated.

35 U.S.C. §102(b), CLAIMS1–10 ANTICIPATION BY GUNDERWAR

10   *1. Regarding claims 1 and 2, Gunderwar fails to teach the step element of providing a first electronic page comprising a field in which a project proposal can be entered with the second computer, but rather teaches the presentation of a pre-existing project.*

In the OA, on pp. 3–4, the Examiner states that Gunderwar teaches each

15   element of claims 1 and 2. Specifically, on p. 3, the Examiner states that Gunderwar teaches:

20
>   providing a first electronic page that can be loaded
>   from a first computer with a second computer via an
>   information transfer network, the first electronic page
>   comprising a field in which a project proposal can be
>   entered with the second computer (column 1, lines
>   58–65.

However, Gunderwar states, at the cited section:

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>   The method also comprises communicating the
>   template identifier selected by the user from the client
>   to the server and displaying a template at the client in
>   response to the selected template identifier, the
>   template including data fields for completion by the

> user. The method further comprises communicating
> the template having completed data fields from the
> client to the server and updating a project workspace
> with the completed template.

5   This does not teach providing a field via which a project proposal can be

entered. The preceding sentence (1:53–58) of Gunderwar clarifies this:

> The method further comprises displaying a procedure
> data sheet at the client in response to the selected
> procedure identifier, the procedure data sheet
> 10   including a list of procedure steps for the selected
> procedure identifier and at least one of the listed
> procedure steps including a template identifier.

It is clear from this section that the template identifier is included on the

procedure data sheet that includes an existing list of procedure steps. Thus, the

15   information does not relate to a project *proposal*, i.e., a new project, but rather

relates to a preexisting project.

Gunderwar deals with the detail of administering tasks of an already

authorized project, which contrasts to the present invention, as claimed in claims

1 and 2, dealing with an authorization process for a project idea or a project

20   proposal.

Given the lack of teaching in Gunderwar related to the provision of a first

electronic page in which a project *proposal* can be entered, Gunderwar fails to

teach or suggest all of the claimed elements and therefore does not anticipate

claims 1 and 2, and all remaining claims that depend therefrom.

25   *2. Regarding claims 9 and 10, Gunderwar further fails to teach the step of*

preparing at least a third electronic page that comprises an instruction for at least

one work step of the sequence of work steps, but rather identifies modules that

contain status pages and program instructions.

In the OA, on p. 5, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10, stating:

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As to claims 9 and 10, Gunderwar teaches the
method according to claims 1 and 2, further
comprising: preparing at least a third electronic page
that comprises and instruction for at least one work
step of the sequence of work steps (column 3, lines
38–53).

Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization. Gunderwar

states, in the cited section:

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Referring again to FIG. 1, system 10 also includes a
project workspace 40, associated with a particular
project, that is resident within the memory of server
12, client 14, or other server or network device
accessible by client 14 over link 30 or another suitable
communications link. Project workspace 20 includes
modules such as status page 42, personnel list 44,
and deliverables library 46.

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Each module described in reference to server 12,
client 14, and project workspace 40 may comprise
any suitable combination of hardware and software in
computer 80 to provide the functionality or operation
of the module. For example, the modules may include
program instructions, associated memory, and
processing components to execute program
instructions. Also, modules illustrated in FIG. 1 may
be separate or integral to other modules.

It is clear that the program instructions are contained in modules from

Gunderwar, but there is no teaching or suggestion of preparing a third electronic

page comprising the instruction, let alone that an instruction itself relates to at

30   least one work step for the sequence of work steps.

Lacking this teaching, Applicants further assert this as an additional basis

for claims 9 and 10 being distinguishable over the Gunderwar reference.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner

withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection from the application.

CONCLUSION

Inasmuch as each of the objections have been overcome by the

arguments presented above, and all of the Examiner's suggestions and

requirements have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present

5   application be reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice

of Allowance be issued in this case.

Any shortages of fees due may be charged to, and any overpayments

may be credited to, deposit account no. 50-1519.

10   Respectfully submitted,

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